

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6636

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,US, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF EMBASSY REITERATION OF DENIAL RE

AMBASSADOR KUBISCH'S ACTIVITIES WITH CONGRESS

REF: ATHENS 8917

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR ATHENS MORNING DAILIES DECEMBER 17 REPORTED EMBASSY SPOKESMAN REITERATION OF PREVIOUS DENIAL CONCERNING AMBASSADOR KUBISCH'S ALLEGED REMARKS AT MEETING WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN EARLIER THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE MAJOR MORNING GREEK DAILIES TO VIMA (SISTER PAPER OF AFTERNOON TA NEA), KATHIMERINI AND AKROPOLIS REPORTED EMBASSY SPOKESMAN'S REITERATION OF EARLIER DENIAL WITH REGARD TO ALLEGED COMMENTS OF AMBASSADOR AT MEETING WITH EUROPEAN SUBCOMMITTEE OF HFAC AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FIRST WEEK IN DECEMBER. KATHIMERINI UNDER CAPTION "MR. KUBISCH HAS HAD ONLY UNOFFICIAL (SIC) MEETINGS IN U.S." PUBLISHED EMBASSY FURTHER DENIAL WITHOUT ELABORATION, AS DID AKROPOLIS WHICH ADDED ONLY THAT DENIAL WAS PROMOTED BY NEWS ITEM IN DECEMBER 16 "AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER." TO VIMA REPORTED EMBASSY SPOKESMAN DENIAL UNDER TITLE "AMERICAN EMBASSY CONTRADICTS CONGRESS RE ACTIVITIES OF MR. CONFIDENTIAL

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KUBISCH." TO VIMA ARTICLE NOTED THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN

EMBASSY DENIED DECEMBER 16 STATEMENTS MADE BY "COMPETENT SOURCE" FROM CONGRESSIONAL FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SIC). "THERE WAS NO BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACTIVITY OF AMBASSADOR KUBISCH," EMBASSY SPOKESMAN STATED, AND CLARIFIED THAT AMB. KUBISCH MET ONLY ONCE WITH SIX OR SEVEN CONGRESSMEN. ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER 5 WHICH WAS ONE DAY AFTER SENATE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. ARTICLE STATED THAT EMBASSY SPOKESMAN CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS UNOFFICIAL (SPOKESMAN HAD ACTUALLY SAID "INFORMAL") AND PRIVATE AND ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH DID NOT MEET WITH ANY OTHER CONGRESSMEN OR SENATORS DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON. TO VIMA ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH REPLAY OF MAJOR POINTS IN TA NEA DECEMBER 16 ARTICLE (ATHENS 8917).
KUBISCH

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